

Symbols in the Book of Revelation

Use this sheet for reference as you read the Book of Revelation.

Numbers

3—greatness (like seven)

3½—(half of seven) imperfection, a time of trial, persecution

4—the world; the four cardinal points; universality

6—(seven minus one) imperfection and failure

7—plentitude, perfection, fullness, totality

10—a complete number; perfection

12—(three times four) eschatological perfection, tribes of Israel, God's People

24—(two times twelve) plenitude of God's People in the Church

42—(number of months in 3½ years) trial, persecution

666—(seven minus one) total imperfection and complete failure

777—(three sevens) absolute perfection and plentitude

1,000—multitude, innumerable quantity

1,260—(days in 3½ years) time of trial, persecution

12,000—limitless numbers; members of the Israelites, the People of God

144,000—(twelve squared and multiplied by one thousand) limitless, complete; symbol of new People of God

Colors

white—victory, glory, joy, purity

red—blood, violence, vengeance

black—death, harm, famine

green—death, pestilence

scarlet—royalty, bloodshed

purple—royal splendor, luxury

blue—transparency, purity



Things

belt on chest—royalty, priesthood

full-length robe—priesthood

crown—royalty, power, victory

palm—victory

star—angel, power, community leader

sword—war, judgment

trumpet—alarm, message, call to attention, liturgy

gaze—judgment

eyes—wisdom, knowledge

horns—strength, power

wings—mobility, protection

seals—secret, importance, belonging

lampstand—the community, Israel

gold—quality, preciousness, value

precious stones—luxury, wealth, beauty

white or gray hair—wisdom, eternity

fornication—idolatry

Places

Babylon—city oppressing the People of God

New Jerusalem—new Zion, new People of God

sea—evil

Living Creatures

angels—messengers of God, personification of God and natural forces

horses—military might, invasion, speed

woman—a nation (Jewish, pagan, Church)

lamb—salvation, simplicity, humility, sacrifice of Jesus, Day of the Lord

beast—the Roman Empire, the emperor

harlot—Babylon, Rome

dragon—serpent, Satan

lion—bravery, cruelty, king of wild animals

bear—cruelty, strength

eagle—liberty, far-reaching, queen of birds

bull—fortitude, king of domestic animals

